(a) whether the Kerala Government has submitted a project for increasing vegetable production and attaining self-sufficiency in Kerala which contained two parts namely Part-I—Seed production and area expansion and Part-II—Efficient post-harvest handling and marketing with a total project cost of Rs. 28.63 crores; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal was examined. On the basis of examination the revised proposal submitted by the State Government was for Rs. 368.50 lakhs of which National Horticulture Board (NHB) has to provide Rs. 100 lakhs, as per the guidelines, against which Rs. 9.78 lakh have already been availed by State. The State Government has to furnish financial appraisal note of commercial banks/public sector units to NHB which is mandatory for getting the remaining amount of Rs. 90.22 lakhs.

Millennium study on Indian Fanners

1541. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to launch a millennium study on the state of Indian farmers;

(b) if so, what are the main objectives of launching the study;

(c) whether the study would include the success and failures of the Five Year Plans in the farm sector and problem afflicting the farm sector; and

(d) by when the study is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) As part of an ongoing Plan Scheme titled Planning and Management of Indian Agriculture, a proposal is under consideration to conduct a Study on the state of Indian farmers. The Study would seek to assess the impact of policies and programmes undertaken during last 50 years of development planning on conditions of the Indian farmers.

(d) No time frame has been set for the project so far as the matter is under consideration in consultation with other concerned Departments/ Organisations.